Introduction to English Studies
Spring 2008
Cherry Hall 1
Professor Ted Hovet

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Office Hours: MW 8-9; TR 11:00-12:30; R 2:30-4:00; and by appointment

Course Description
The study of English begins with reading and writing. But what exactly do we read or write and why? How can something like "literature" be defined—whether we are reading it, researching it, or creating it? This course is designed to address these kinds of questions on both the "local" level (here at WKU) and on the larger level of the discipline of English as a whole.

Course Objectives
• Students will gain a stronger sense of the specific opportunities and requirements within the WKU English majors (writing, literature, EALA).
• Students will gain a comprehensive knowledge of the field of English studies: what is studied, how it is studied, and why it is studied.
• Students will gain knowledge of library, Internet, and other resources useful in reading, writing, and researching within the discipline.
• Students will be introduced to resources and opportunities for career and graduate study options.
• Students will be able to articulate and demonstrate their interests, goals, and abilities.

Texts and Materials
Books: Murfin, Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms
Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (you MUST get the Bedford/St. Martin’s 2nd Edition)
Whiteside, The Intuitionist
McHugh, Heather (Ed.). Best American Poetry 2007
Gibaldi, The MLA Handbook (Sixth Edition)

Course Policies
1) Regular attendance and participation. All reading assignments must be completed the day they are scheduled for discussion. More than two absences from regular class meetings will negatively affect the attendance grade—since we don’t meet often, each one is important.

2) Late Work Policy: Unexcused late assignments will be lowered one letter grade at the beginning of each class period they are past due. To wave this penalty the student must either make arrangements with the instructor in advance or provide a formal written
excuse. Rewrite Policy: Any rewrites must be preceded by a one page proposal that outlines any changes the student wishes to make and the rationale for those changes. If the instructor accepts the proposal, the grade of the rewritten paper will be averaged with the grade of the original paper.

3) Students Seeking Accommodations: Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Room 445, Potter Hall. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/TDD. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

4) Grading
Formal Papers: 50%
Quizzes, Class Activities 30%
Attendance and Participation 20%

5) The final date for the submission of any work for this course is **May 7**

**English 299—Spring 2008**

**Course Schedule**

NOTE: Starting on January 30, we will begin each class with a “Poem of the Day” selected from *Best American Poetry 2007* and introduced by a student. A sign-up sheet will be provided.

January 23 Course Introduction
**Complete E-mail Survey by 1/25**

January 28 Williams, “So Much Depends”; Frost, “The Road Not Taken”; Walker, “Everyday Use” (handouts)
From *Bedford Glossary*: denotation, connotation, close reading, exegesis, poetry

January 30 Carver, “Cathedral”
From *Bedford Glossary*: plot, character, short story, epiphany

February 04 Requirements and Opportunities in the English Major: Dr. Karen Schneider, department head, and Dr. Katie Green, undergraduate advisor
From *Bedford Glossary*: imagery, rhythm, rhyme, sonnet

February 06 (Self) Research and (Self) Writing: Dr. Dale Rigby
From *Bedford Glossary*: trope, allusion, tone, style, diction

February 11 *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* 20-99 (Bedford 2nd Edition)

February 13 *Portrait* 99-135

February 18 *Portrait* 135-224
February 20 Portrait 3-18 and 245-57  
From Bedford Guide: formalism, new historicism

February 25 Selected readings from “A Case Study in Contemporary Criticism”  
From Bedford Guide: psychoanalytic criticism, feminist criticism  
**Due: Intellectual Autobiography**

February 27 Selected readings from “A Case Study in Contemporary Criticism”  
From Bedford Guide: cultural criticism, postcolonial criticism

March 03 Workshop on Joyce Paper

March 05 Readings TBA  
**Due: Analysis of Portrait**

March 17 Visit to Career Services Center

March 19 Grad School Speakers and Information: Dr. Libby Oakes and other speakers

March 24 Internships for English Majors: Dr. Angela Jones

March 26 Guest Speakers: Scott Gordon (WKU Admissions) and Sean McCray (TLC)

March 31 The Intuitionist 1-98

April 02 The Intuitionist 98-140

April 07 The Intuitionist 145-255

April 09 MLA and Research in English  
**Due: Topic for Research Project**

April 14 Research Project Workshop  
**Due: Annotated Bibliography**

April 16 Research Project Workshop

April 21 Current English Students Forum  
**Due: Research Project**

April 23 TBA

April 28 TBA

April 30 Final Reflection and Evaluation

May 7 All work for class must be complete